

Survey of the World's News

THE United States department of commerce and labor has received a number of consular reports which indicate that government pawnshops are advantageous. They have them in Germany, Holland and France. They enable financially embarrassed persons in those countries to obtain cash on personal collateral without payment of absurdly large interest. The average rate is under 12 per cent a year.

The pawnshop of Amsterdam, the oldest and probably the most successful public pawnshop in the world, is known as the Bank von Leening. It has been under the control of the municipality since 1614 and has fifteen branches throughout the city. The average rate of interest is less than 10 per cent per annum. Surpluses over amounts lent, minus interest and 6 per cent for administration, are returned to the owners of unredeemed pledges after sale whenever possible, and still the bank shows profits of almost \$1,000,000 annually, besides providing substantial pensions for old employees.

Reports from Washington say that government officials are inclined to follow the example these foreign countries have set in this particular.

GERMANY'S UPHEAVAL

With the National Liberals holding the balance of power in Germany's new reichstag, Herr Ernst Basserman, the leader of that party, stands out prominently among the statesmen of the progressive groups. The situation



Herr Ernst Basserman, Who Is Powerful Member of New Reichstag.

in Germany is interesting in that the old time Conservatives have lost their grip. A combination of the Socialists and radicals was naturally expected, but there has been a great deal of conjecture as to how far the National Liberals will go in helping to consummate the plans of the victorious element for a revolution of political conditions in the fatherland. The former regime bases its only hope on the National Liberals, who, it is conceded, will adhere to the Kaiser's views along certain lines, but as to that body's further activities there have been a wide divergence of views and conclusions.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Charles Sumner, United States senator, 1850-74, and adviser of President Lincoln, died March 11, 1874; John Lorimer Worden, rear admiral, U. S. N., commanding the victorious Monitor in the battle of Hampton Roads, March 9, 1862, born March 12, 1818; Alaska ceded to the United States by Russia, March 13, 1867; Benjamin Harrison, twenty-third president of the United States, died March 13, 1901; the American colonies began King George's war, March 15, 1744; Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States, born March 15, 1767; United States Military academy at West Point founded by act of congress, March 16, 1802; Grover Cleveland, twenty-second, twenty-fourth president of the United States, born March 18, 1837; General Joseph E. Johnston, Confederate leader, died March 21, 1891.

MUNICIPAL WASH DAYS

Los Angeles has taken up an idea advocated by Miss Jane Addams, the Chicago settlement worker—namely, municipal washhouses for the poor. The city also has adopted public bathing establishments in parts of the municipality where the great majority cannot afford baths as often as needed. Miss Addams has already pointed out that in many foreign countries washing day is enjoyed by the women, because they take the clothes down to the river and wash them together, laughing and chatting as they do it. When they come to this country each woman does her washing alone in a cramped room, and wash day becomes a day of dread.

RECENT FARM STATISTICS

While farm values have doubled in ten years, the number of farms in the United States increased only 10.5 per cent from 1900 to 1910, although the population increased 21 per cent. It has been estimated that the decrease in that part of the population engaged in farming is 32 per cent.

In 1900 the average sized farm con-

tained 146 acres; in 1910 it contained 158 acres. The improved acreage, however, has increased 15.2 per cent, or much faster than the total farm acreage and somewhat faster than the total number of farms.

The expenditures for farm labor jumped from \$357,000,000 in 1900 to \$646,000,000 in 1910, and the expenditures for fertilizers advanced from \$58,000,000 in 1900 to \$114,000,000 in 1910.

THE MOTHERS' CONGRESS

Better parents, better babies, better country, is the slogan of the National Mothers' Congress, holding its annual meeting at Dallas, Tex., March 21-23. It is the object of this organization to instruct mothers in the proper care of infants, in ventilation and moral training. A country wide campaign of child welfare has been started by the congress to further this work.

One of the aims of the organization is to lengthen the school terms of all boys and girls of the United States. Tentative plans agreed upon by the executive committee in Philadelphia awaited indorsement by the Dallas convention.

MANY EYES ON CANAL

Consular reports to the state department at Washington show that almost every maritime nation worth while is making preparations for sharing in the trade benefits of the Panama canal. Only a short time ago it was authoritatively reported that the canal was four-fifths completed and will certainly be ready for use some time in 1914. The time for the establishment of bases or ports of call proves, therefore, to be much shorter than many foreign governments had anticipated, and the undertaking of finding such ports or in making advantageous selections commenced with a rush.

"It has been announced," writes Consul Julius D. Dreher from Port Antonio, "that the French government has sent a commission to the West Indies to select a port in Guadeloupe or Martinique to be made a port of call for French ships that will pass through the Panama canal."

Mr. Dreher is firmly convinced that a large proportion of the world's ocean traffic will soon be carried in ships that will pass through West Indian waters, and says that any reasonable study of the reduction in sea distances to be brought about by the opening of the Panama canal will be sufficient to prove it.

He further says: "There will then be from New York to all American Pacific ports north of the Panama canal a uniform reduction of 8,415 miles and to such ports south of the canal a uniform reduction of about 5,000 miles."

BUSINESS CONGRESS

President Taft was requested to invite the commercial nations of the world to participate in the fifth international congress of chambers of commerce and commercial and industrial associations in Boston, Sept. 24 to 28, in a joint resolution introduced in congress by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts. An appropriation of \$60,000 was asked for convention expenses and to provide for a tour of the United States by the foreign delegates.

A NEW AMBASSADOR

Edwin Vernon Morgan, the present United States ambassador to Brazil, has had a long experience in the diplomatic service. At the time of his promotion he was minister to Portugal. He succeeded the late Irving B. Dudley as representative at Rio de Janeiro.

Ambassador Morgan is a native of Aurora, N. Y., and is forty-seven years old. After graduating from Harvard



Copyright by J. E. Purdy.
Edwin V. Morgan, American Diplomatist, Sent to Brazil.

and the University of Berlin he became instructor in history at the former institution, subsequently going to Adelbert college, Cleveland, in the same capacity. He entered the government service as secretary to the United States commission to the Samoan Islands in 1899 and was soon thereafter transferred to St. Petersburg as second secretary of the embassy. He was appointed consul to Dainy in 1904; but, the war preventing him from taking the post, he was made minister to Korea. From 1905 to 1909 he was minister to Cuba, going thence to Uruguay.

HOME PRODUCTS DESERVE YOUR FIRST CONSIDERATION

Find Out if Local Merchants Cannot Supply the Things You Are Purchasing Elsewhere.

Did it ever occur to you to consider what articles and how many lines of goods are manufactured in your own town? The chances are that you have been buying various commodities from outside of town without knowing that you can get them right at home, made by neighbors of yours who are trying to build up a business and at the same time helping to build up the town. Many persons patronize mail order houses or go away to buy goods more because they are not aware of what the home market has to offer than because they think they are getting better bargains outside.

What most towns need is a little course of education in the immediate home market line. The producers and manufacturers in many instances need education in that respect. They need to know the value of letting other people know what they make and have for sale. Not long ago an enterprising home trade enthusiast in a Texas town compiled and published a list of goods manufactured and handled in his own town. It surprised him as well as others. The list follows:

Overalls and jumpers, half tone cuts and etchings, bank and store fixtures, chili supplies, crackers, creamery products, cornice supplies, plumbers' supplies, macaroni, laundries, furniture, flour mill products, planing mill products, saddlery and harness, brooms, cigars, trunks, stock and poultry medicines, mattresses, show cases and cabinets, printing and binding, upholstering, acetylene gas, iron works, rubber and steel stamps, candy, awning and carpet renovating, vinegar, meat products, carriage and wagon works, fountain drinks, ginners' supplies, windmills and casing, pressed brick, coffins and caskets.

Not every town, of course, manufactures such a long list of articles—from crackers to coffins—but in every town there are homemade products which should appeal to home people. A little investigation will prove that there are more home manufactured goods in your own town than you ever dreamed of.

The list above includes windmills. Perhaps you do not need windmills, but you do need printing every now and then. You will notice printing and binding in the list. Printing and binding are done right here at home and at reasonable rates, yet every once in awhile the printer discovers that somebody sends away for a job which could be done here just as well and as reasonably. Other lines of business also suffer because people don't seem to realize that the home product is a bargain from any point of view.

The moral is this: Find out what your neighbors produce and offer before buying outside of the community and you may be agreeably surprised.

A SUCCESSFUL WIFE.

She needs a good temper, a cheerful disposition and a knowledge of how her husband should be treated. She needs a capacity of looking on the bright side of things and refusing to be worried by trifles. She needs a secure grasp of such subjects as are of interest to men and should not be above studying even politics in order to understand should her husband speak of them. She needs a sympathetic nature that should sorrow fall upon them, she may be able to give comfort to her husband. She needs considerable tact and patience—the one to enable her to know when to remain silent and vice versa, and the other to put up with him when his temper is ruffled.—Philadelphia Press.

NOTED POETS' POVERTY.

Goldsmith, Coleridge and Dryden Among Those Who Suffered.

It will be remembered how, in his early days, Dr. Johnson on occasion walked the streets of London all night because he could not afford a bed, while Goldsmith knew the necessity of pawing his bedclothes, lying with his head protruding from a slit in the mattress inside which he had thrust his person. Coleridge, even at a time when he had attained celebrity as a scholar, poet and essayist, was in the saddest state of destitution. Dryden lived in poverty and distress. Steele waged a ceaseless war against bailiffs. Keats slipped out of life under the impression that his "name was writ in water," and Otway perished of starvation.

Far from genius being a help to the literary or poetic creator in any material sense, at least during the early stages of his career, it is a hindrance, asserts the London Author. Mankind understands mediocrity, tolerates talent, but mistrusts genius.

"For one man who succeeds in literature a thousand fail," declared Mr. Crawford.

Authors who have passed through what is called "the mill" could no doubt throw corroborative evidence on the statement, even though perseverance, physical endurance and perchance good fortune may have combined to pull them through the purgatory wherein they once groined in anguish and to have in some degree toned down their misery.

The Weekly Farm Budget

A Variety of Dry Farming Products



[Dry farming methods are generally thought of in connection with semiarid regions. This editor contends that the principles of conserving moisture as exemplified in "dry farming" practice are only methods of good agriculture, whether in dry sections or those sections blessed by a reasonably heavy rainfall. This idea is in accord with that expressed in the following article by Dr. Bailey. Other phases than those generally considered in connection with dry farming and which are well worth a thought are given in the article.—Editor Kansas Farmer.]

DRY FARMING AN ISSUE FOR THE WHOLE NATION.

Everybody Everywhere Interested in the Question of Conserving the Valuable Moisture of the Soil.

By Liberty H. Bailey, In Dry Farming Bulletin.

I am convinced that the dry farming movement has direct value in its application to eastern as well as western conditions. The movement is necessary and therefore worth while in its western applications alone, and in its bearing on the welfare of those regions it should appeal to all the people, but it also has a bearing on agriculture in the entire country such as our people do not yet understand.

We habitually associate "dry farming" with dry regions, but the conservation of water lies also at the foundation of agriculture in most humid regions, as well as semi-arid regions, for the crop in humid regions is very generally determined by the pinch of the "dry spell" or drought.

We shall never have a good agriculture until the farmer prepares for dry times and drought just as conscientiously as he prepares for winter. The "dry spell" of summer is usually considered to be a calamity. It is probable that a properly regulated system of husbandry would make such spells to be advantageous.

Nor is it merely a question of carrying the crop over the recognized dry spells. A sufficient supply of soil moisture continuously throughout the year is a fundamental necessity of crop growing. The acre production must be made to increase, which means that we must be increasingly careful of our water waste.

In the hard land, hilly regions of the east it is not only a question of the actual quantity of water falling on the earth, but quite as much the loss of the water by rapid run off. The violent run-off is like water running from a roof. It tears the land, moves stones and other heavy objects and carries away immense stores of fertility. Within two or three days after a heavy rain the sides and tops of hills may be suffering from dry soil. Many of the hills of the humid eastern states are unproductive or even sterile because they are dry. We shall find the principles of dry farming to be increasingly applicable to the east.

Sense About Silos.

Corn belt stock farmers can much better afford silos than to forego their use, even though it be necessary to borrow the money to cover their cost, says the Breeder's Gazette.

Silos are a form of insurance, protecting their owners against drought, with its grassless pastures, insuring the payment of nutritious, palatable feed upon demand to live stock, conserving in digestible form practically the entire corn plant, and warranting the cash sale of hay and grain when prices are particularly attractive. It is a wonderful grip that silos give their owners on the difficult situations that arise in unfavorable seasons. They should be considered not as minor conveniences nor yet as worth having only when a peculiar set of conditions exist.

Get After the Rabbit.

The festive rabbit plays a better leading role in a stew or a potpie than as an orchardist. He may be induced to assume this part by a persuasive shotgun or a trap. But whether engaged or not he should not be allowed to gnaw newly set trees. A band of quarter inch wire netting round the trunk will be a sure protection if extended up beyond his reach.—American Agriculturist.

Value of Mixed Crops.

The Cornell experiment station (New York) in the course of some investigations found that timothy grown with alfalfa or red clover had a higher protein content than that grown without these legumes. Oats grown with peas also showed an increased protein content, and the hay yield of mixed oats and peas was 4,575 pounds as compared with 3,325 pounds of oats grown alone.

THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

Don't take your load to bed with you. You always take the harness off the horses when you put them into the stable in the evening.

Trimming those hedges will not only add to the general appearance of your premises, but during the hot days of summer it will also make travel more bearable along the highway bordering your farm.

Cutting the teeth in old animals is sometimes practiced with good results, but it is not often necessary. It is, however, a wise policy to have a horse's teeth floated once in two years, thus enabling him better to grind his food.

Keep the sweet potato vines clipped, never allowing them to reach a length of over eighteen inches or two feet, else they will take root and draw the substance away from the main plant, that portion of the vine that produces the potatoes.

Don't let the old roosters die a natural death. They'll never be tenderer than they are now.

Keep the poultry house closed as long as possible in the evening, so the layers will not go in and sit on the roosts so early. They are asleep and inactive enough these long winter nights, even if they are kept scratching around till dark.

Eggs for hatching should never be rough. Such eggs are most likely to produce ill shaped or deformed chicks.

Stock Needs Variety in Food.

Some men think that they are feeding their farm animals well when they give them all they will eat. Give a cow a straw stack or fifty tons of corn stover and she surely will have all she can eat for a considerable length of time, but she will be inadequately nourished. It is the want of variety and balance in common maintenance during the grassless months that devitalizes farm stock.

With the Short Story Writers

Medieval Justice

By J. MURRAY READ

MANY of the laws of medieval times were very curious. At first cases were decided by combat, and it was a long while before the jury system came into use. In those days punishment was very disproportionate to the crime. During the reign of King Edward IV. of England a young girl of Yorkshire was wooed by two lovers, the one a young farmer of her own rank, the other the profligate son of a wealthy merchant. Robert Dangerfield, the farmer, held the principal place in Marjory's affections, but Tom Ricketts, the merchant's son, being heir to great prospective wealth, was a rival to be dreaded. Ricketts was a great rascal and at first never intended to marry the girl, but Marjory was well able to take care of herself, and the young scapegrace soon discovered that he could only have her, if at all, after a legitimate wedding ceremony. As soon as he came into this condition Marjory, possibly in order to tantalize him, declared that she intended, after all, to wed Robert Dangerfield.

Ricketts by this time was madly in love and ready to commit any crime to gain the girl. One dark night he stole a sheep from one of his father's tenants, carried it to the cottage of his rival and tethered it to the doorknob. Robert awoke in the morning and was astonished to find the sheep, which, with the simple faith of that day, he considered a gift sent him from heaven. Tom Ricketts told the owner that he had seen his animal in possession of Dangerfield. The young farmer was arrested and thrown into prison on a charge of sheep stealing. Then Ricketts rode to the home of Marjory to tell her the news:

"Dangerfield has been sheep stealing. He is in prison and will be tried and hanged. Do not waste more time, Marjory, in listening to men of low degree. Set the day for our wedding. We will travel and see foreign lands, and when we return I will build a castle for you to live in."

Now, Marjory was no fool. She knew that Ricketts was in earnest, but she distrusted him.

"I won't marry you, Tom Ricketts," she said, "if you build twenty castles. I am going to marry Robert Dangerfield."

"You mean if Robert is not hanged."

"I will marry him whether he is hanged or not."

Marjory visited Dangerfield in prison and asked him what she could do to save him. Her lover bade her go to Bleckstun, a famous lawyer of that name, and ask him if he could suggest any way out of the difficulty. Bleckstun familiarized himself with the case, then questioned Marjory.

"You say that you love the accused?"

"I do."

"And will marry him if he is acquitted?"

"Yes, and if he is hanged."

"What! Marry him in prison on the eve of execution?"

"I will marry him at the foot of the gallows."

The lawyer bade her go and tell the prisoner that there was hope for him, but that his escape from death, if at all, would be by a hair's breadth.

Dangerfield was tried, but the lawyer did not appear to defend him. The evidence against him was so strong, the sheep having been found tethered to his door, that he was pronounced guilty and sentenced to be hanged. He offered to decide the matter by combat with Ricketts, whom he suspected of having brought the misfortune upon him, but Ricketts declined on the ground that he was not the owner of the sheep.

The day of the execution was a holiday, as all such days were at that time, though Dangerfield's neighbors were plunged in grief, for he was much respected among them, and they did not see why he should have stolen one sheep when he was the possessor of several hundred. Marjory went with him to the gallows, and, seeing Tom Ricketts by the way among the lookers-on, she gave him a scowl of defiance and hatred. On arriving at the place of execution she cast a glance over the assembled multitude and was astonished to see among them the lawyer Bleckstun.

When all was ready and the hangman was about to adjust the noose Marjory cried out:

"I claim this man in marriage!"

There was the silence of surprise among the spectators, then further astonishment when Bleckstun arose.

"And I claim him as a free man."

"Who are you?" asked the sheriff.

"I am Edmond Bleckstun."

"On what ground to you claim the prisoner?"

"Under an edict of his most gracious majesty King Edward IV. which commands that when a man is to be executed for crime if any woman shall demand him in marriage he shall be spared and given to the woman."

The sheriff had too great respect for the learned counselor's knowledge of law to act counter to his opinion, and the friends of Dangerfield set up a cry:

"A marriage! A marriage!"

The priest then performed the wedding ceremony, the bride and bridegroom walked away, followed by the acclamations of those who, having come to see an execution, had looked upon a wedding.

Proof was afterward adduced that Ricketts had stolen the sheep, and he was hanged for the crime.